

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 3, 4, 7, 12-16 and 19-28 without estoppel or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

1.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for performing a surgical procedure on the heart of a patient through a working cavity in tissue between the heart and an entry incision, the apparatus comprising:

a cannula configured for passing extravascularly through the entry incision and working cavity toward the heart;

a suction attachment supported by the cannula for contacting an exterior target site on the heart; and

a support channel for a cardiac lead that is disposed on the suction attachment and that includes coaxial mating segments that are relatively rotatable about a coaxial axis thereof, each segment having a longitudinal slot extending between distal and proximal ends thereof for selective configuration as a closed channel in one relative rotational orientation for confining a cardiac lead therein or as a channel open longitudinally between proximal and distal ends thereof in another relative rotational orientation for releasing a cardiac lead laterally therefrom.

18. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 17 including a cardiac lead connected to an electrode disposed near a surface of the suction attachment to contact the heart externally, the cardiac lead extending along the support channel in the closed configuration to the proximal end thereof for connecting the electrode to a utilization circuit and being releasable laterally from the support channel through the longitudinal slot formed therein in the open configuration.

19.-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 17 in which the cannula supports an endoscope therein for providing visualization of the suction attachment contacting an exterior target site on the heart.